

## The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ C June 23, 2019

- ◆ **Congratulations to Fr. Martin**
- ◆ **Off to Uganda (and Ireland)**

This Sunday, I will leave with eight other Ascension parishioners for Uganda, namely:

- ◆ George & Terri Cornelius-Moore
- ◆ Dr. Francisco & Margi Ruiz and their 17-year-old daughter Victoria
- ◆ Rob & Christina Light
- ◆ Sue Pickles

We will be joining missionaries from Blessed Trinity in Ocala. Fr. Sheedy (Pastor) and Sr. Juliet (a sister from Uganda) will be leading all of us. They have been going to their Sister Parish in Nalweyo for 13 years. At this time, they have 30 sub-parishes (villages). They have built churches, schools (one boarding high school) and clinics, and done many other things during their 13 trips.

During my one-week trip, I plan to visit some of the sub-parishes or villages.

We are all excited about this trip. Here's our itinerary:

- ◆ Depart from Orlando this Sunday at 2:15pm
- ◆ Stopover in Washington, DC, and depart at 4:25pm
- ◆ Stopover in Brussels and depart for Entebbe, Uganda, arriving at 10:25am Monday.
- ◆ 8-hour bus trip to our Mission area

### Gifts from Ascension

We are taking with us:

- 137 Ascension Catholic School uniform tops
- 11 tablets/iPads
- 8 smartphones
- several hundred pencils, pens, glue sticks
- hundreds of rosaries

Also the following items made by Anne Reynolds, Patsy Audie, Valerie Harrison and Dottie Weed:

- 151 book bags
- 100 pencil pouches

- 50 smaller elastic closed bags



### Fr. Patrick Sheedy, Pastor Blessed Trinity in Ocala

The following are bits and pieces from Blessed Trinity's newsletter on their 2018 Summer Mission trip to Uganda. For more on the work of Blessed Trinity in Uganda, google Blessed Trinity Sister Parish, Nalweyo, Uganda.

### The Sick

Every year we are requested to pay medical bills of individuals with a medical problem that has a solution if money was available. Here are three examples from this year:

- Hip surgery for our old former driver  
\$220.00 total
- Child born with one eye closed  
\$12 a shot for 40 shots
- Girl with cleft palate - second operation  
\$30 a shot for 6 months

### Blessing new or renovated buildings

We blessed Our Lady of Fatima Church and also St. Ann's Church. Now there are 26 blessed—with four more to go—over the next two years. We blessed St. Mary's newly renovated maternity ward. This was truly a big, big occasion because the nearest hospital is 26 miles away for babies to be born in. Now 15 to 20 moms can have babies born locally in relative safety. We also blessed Trinity Catholic High School's new administration wing. It is very attractive. And we blessed the new boys' dorm where 150 high school boys sleep.



Blessing of St. Mary's Maternity Ward

Angela Schreiner writes:

**It has been a huge blessing from God to spend another summer together in Nalweyo, working with the children enrolled in Our Lady of Mercy Children's Home.** In 2017, my cousin Joy Bleiker and I spent our summer working as God helped us transform a run-down local home for orphans into a safe place for needy children in the community. Sister Juliet, Bernadette Bleiker, and many other missionaries were our partners in answering that call of God.

Joy and I returned this past summer to continue the work. We took major steps to upgrade and begin the legalization process of the home. We were able to install a new latrine, update each child's educational plan, and clean and paint the building.

Through saying "yes" together in this endeavor, Joy and I have grown closer to Christ and have watched Him do great things! We are so thankful for the support of Fr. Pat, Sister Juliet and the entire parish! Lives are being changed!

### **Farming has changed over the years at Blessed Trinity, Nalweyo**



The area where pineapples, bananas and nuts used to grow has been replaced with dorms and classrooms. As BT Nalweyo continues to grow, more of the food production has been moved to the farm.

Father John Paul has big ideas on utilizing the farm. He would like to upgrade the quality of the

cattle either by artificial insemination or purchasing better quality bulls. He is also considering planting sugar cane.

Around the orphanage are sixty-three acres that can be used to grow additional crops. They are already growing maize and sunflowers on some of the land. This is where I used the tractor the most on this trip, clearing and plowing to get the land ready for the August planting season. Because of issues with the tractor I felt I did not get enough land prepared, but Father Pat reminded me that every acre plowed was one less they had to do by hand! The people at the orphanage were very happy, so they obviously shared Father's point of view!

The soil in this area is amazing and with the proper amount of rain almost anything will grow. Many people

think of Africa as being hot and dry like a desert, but that is not true of this area. It is a tropical climate with mild temperatures - a welcome relief from our Florida heat and humidity!

The farm has a few pigs left, but once again swine flu has gone through the area and killed most of them. There is currently a quarantine on moving or selling animals. That did not, however, keep the parishioners from giving animals as their stewardship offerings. Father Pat received many goats, chickens and even two good-sized calves! Father Pat's visits help to keep everyone fed and the farm herds increasing.

*- Stacey Wood*

**While the rest of the world still struggles to achieve the equality among the genders,** recent reports from Uganda show more positive steps to improvement. Research done by MasterCard found that 34.8% of businesses in the country are owned by women, and 90.5% of women are borrowing and saving money to start a business, therefore making Uganda the top performing country in Africa. Nalweyo, a small, impoverished community, is not an exception. Nalweyo has two outstanding places where handmade, unique items can be found, made by the hands of talented and creative women entrepreneurs!

Jessica Baker writes about life in a boarding High School.

### **A peek inside students' life**

After spending so much time with the students at the high school, I was very curious what their entire school day entailed. I noticed when waking up in



the mornings around 7am for morning Mass that the students would already be at the school for their preps. Preps entail studying and reviewing all of their notes to prepare for upcoming tests. The students at the high school are so intelligent and love to talk about what they are learning. I love spending my days in the classrooms just observing how intrigued the students are when learning new material. At 4pm on Wednesday, the students will have a debate on a specific topic chosen by the teachers. On Thursdays at 7:15am the students attend Mass. On Fridays, the students enjoy sports and games on the soccer field. Saturdays and Sundays are

not quite days off for these students! They attend Mass both days and still attend Preps.

One of my favorite things to do while in Uganda is to play sports with the children. They are all so athletic and are the best team players. The students' days are long, but never have I heard one complaint about how early they have to wake up to go to school!

### Typical School Schedule for TCHS Nalweyo Students

4:00-5:00am	Students wake up and prepare for the day
5:00-7:00am	Morning Preps
7:30-10:10am	Classes in session
10:10-10:30am	Snack (usually eat porridge)
10:30-11:50am	Classes in session
11:50am-2:00pm	Lunch / Break (can return to dormitories)
2:00-4:00pm	Classes in session
4:00-7:00pm	Events vary by day
7:00-8:00pm	Evening prayers
8:00-10:00pm	Evening Preps
11:00pm	Bedtime

### Six behaviors that express full and active participation in the Mass

**Behavior #1: Punctuality.** Getting to church at least ten minutes before Mass begins gives us some time to prepare ourselves spiritually for the wonderful and sacred event that is about to happen. Ideally, we should not be chatting before Mass. We can do that after Mass.

**Behavior #2: Spirit of hospitality.** Everyone enjoys coming to a place where there is a spirit of warmth and hospitality. This includes the place we call church. It has been said that *warm prayerful congregations attract people. Cold, unprayerful and distracted congregations drive people away.* A spirit of hospitality does not mean a lot of chatter before Mass but rather an attitude that says to those around us: "I am glad to see you." A simple "Good Morning" or a smile communicates a spirit of hospitality.

**Behavior #3: Active participation in the song and prayer of the Mass.** An important part of active participation in the Mass is joining in the sung prayer of the congregation. Notice the term "*sung prayer.*" Ideally, at Mass we don't just sing the songs, but we *pray* the songs. We do this by paying attention to the

lyrics of the song and making an effort to lift our minds and hearts to God during our singing.

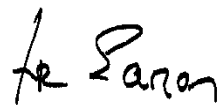
**Behavior #4: Attentive listening.** At times during Mass, we are called to be active listeners. This is especially so during the proclamation of the Scriptures and the homily which follows. *Attentive listening* during Mass is not easy. It demands a real effort on our part, particularly when the readings are difficult to understand and the homily does not engage us.

**Behavior #5: Spirit of generosity.** A spirit of generosity involves giving of ourselves to the prayer and songs of the Mass, being intentional donors to the collection, bringing food items to church on the first Sunday of the month.

**Behavior #6: Spirit of thanksgiving.** At each Mass we participate in, we come primarily to *give* of ourselves and not to receive. Though of course in our giving, we will receive. When we come to Mass with a's-in-it-for-me attitude, we are bringing a consumerist mentality into the house of God.

Using 5 as a perfect score or close to perfect, how would you score on the above six behaviors?

Have a blessed week and see you the end of July,



## **Congratulations to Fr. Martin as he celebrates 30 years of Priestly Ministry**

**Thank you for helping us to celebrate the 30 years of Fr. Martin's priestly ministry.  
The following is a run-down of his assignments during the past 30 years.**

<b>Ordained 1989</b>	<b>Raleigh, North Carolina</b>	
<b>1989-1991</b>	<b>Saint Paul's</b>	<b>New Bern, North Carolina</b>
<b>1991-1992</b>	<b>Saint Thomas Moore</b>	<b>Chapel Hill, North Carolina</b>
<b>1992-1995</b>	<b>Sacred Heart</b>	<b>Dunn, North Carolina</b>
<b>1995-1997</b>	<b>Tinker AFB Chapel</b>	<b>Oklahoma City, Oklahoma</b>
<b>1997-2000</b>	<b>Aviano AB Chapel</b>	<b>Aviano, Italy</b>
<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>Saint Julia's</b>	<b>Weston, Massachusetts</b>
<b>(Assisted parish during special assignment at Boston College)</b>		
<b>2001-2004</b>	<b>USAF Academy Chapel</b>	<b>Colorado Springs, Colorado</b>
<b>2004-2005</b>	<b>Osan Air Base</b>	<b>Osan, Republic of Korea</b>
<b>2005-2007</b>	<b>Patrick AFB Chapel</b>	<b>Melbourne, Florida</b>
<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>Kunsan AB Chapel</b>	<b>Kunsan, Republic of Korea</b>
<b>2008-2011</b>	<b>RAF Alconbury Chapel</b>	<b>Alconbury, England</b>
<b>2011-2014</b>	<b>Shaw AFB Chapel</b>	<b>Sumter, South Carolina</b>
<b>2014-2017</b>	<b>Spangdahlem AB Chapel</b>	<b>Spangdahlem, Germany</b>
<b>2017-present</b>	<b>Ascension Catholic Church</b>	<b>Melbourne, Florida</b>